



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TENNESSEE REHABILITATION CENTER GRADUATES OVERCOME BARRIERS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS

MORE THAN 80 TENNESSEANS WITH DISABILITIES GAIN SKILLS TO ENTER THE WORKFORCE

SMYRNA, Tenn.— Dozens of young men and women with significant disabilities donned cap and gown and walked or rolled their wheelchairs across the stage at the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center in Smyrna today. All of the students are determined to better their lives and enter or re-enter the workforce.

The new graduates took advantage of the diverse programs offered at TRC, including Building Maintenance, Business Education Training, Food Service, Custodial Training and Warehouse Training.

Today's graduation ceremony was marked with inspiring words from guest speaker Amy Hawkins, the Sumner County mother who was badly injured during a tornado that swept through middle Tennessee in April 2006. Hawkins' ribs and back were broken when she used her body as a shield to protect her two small children from the devastating storm.

"If you mix a little patience with determination," Hawkins told the graduating students from her wheelchair, "you will succeed in your endeavors."

TRC's mission is to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services in a positive and productive learning environment. The services offered at TRC assist individuals in achieving their highest level of functioning so they can live and work as independently as possible.

The Tennessee Rehabilitation Center is a state-operated comprehensive rehabilitation facility. It is one of only nine such centers in the nation. Services are provided on campus, and the majority of clients live on site while receiving services. The length of programs offered at TRC varies, depending upon the individual client's interest, abilities and needs. TRC is part of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

TRC serves more than 1,300 disabled Tennesseans each year. Since opening its doors in 1977, TRC has served more than 28,000 disabled individuals.

For more information about TRC, the Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Tennessee Department of Human Services, visit <http://state.tn.us/humanserv/rehab/trc.htm>

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CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR
400 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37248
615.313.4700

The following is a list of TRC graduates by county and program:

First Name	Last Name	City	County	Program Area
James	Helmholtz	Shelbyville	Bedford	Auto Maintenance/Detail
Richard	Ransom	Shelbyville	Bedford	Groundskeeping
Jesse	Hayden	Cleveland	Bradley	Building Maintenance
Brian	Ingram	Woodbury	Cannon	VIS
Richard	Reeves	Huntingdon	Carroll	VIS
Sabrina	Pierre	Henderson	Chester	OT/PT
Julian	Gray	Manchester	Coffee	Auto Maintenance/Detail
Jerry "Maurice"	McMullin	Bells	Crockett	Traumatic Brain Injury
Scott	Hollis	Nashville	Davidson	Auto Maintenance/Detail
Brandon	Patton	Nashville	Davidson	Building Maintenance
Nicholas	Smith	Antioch	Davidson	Business Education
Ronald	Howard	Nashville	Davidson	JOBS
David	Alford	Antioch	Davidson	OT/PT
Debra	Patterson	Nashville	Davidson	Traumatic Brain Injury
Rashad	Brown	Antioch	Davidson	TLS
Katherine	Sanders	Nashville	Davidson	Traumatic Brain Injury
Teonqua	Davis	Nashville	Davidson	JOBS
Chasity	Roberts	Smithville	DeKalb	Warehouse
Sara	Askew	Alexandria	Dekalb	JOBS
Markus	Deason	Dyersburg	Dyer	JOBS
Vicki	Harmon	Estill Springs	Franklin	JOBS
Matthew	Rippy	Decherd	Franklin	JOBS
Jessica	Benson	Dyer	Gibson	JOBS
Thomas	Ingram	Pulaski	Giles	Business Education
Janice	Kilgore	Tracy City	Grundy	Groundskeeping
Brandon	Ford	Chattanooga	Hamilton	Automotive Maintenance
Donell	Holimon	Hixson	Hamilton	Custodial
Joshua	Holloway	Chattanooga	Hamilton	Custodial
Amanda	Manion	East Ridge	Hamilton	Food Service
Kevin	Dowdy	Chattanooga	Hamilton	VIS
Kenneth	Jones, Jr.	Chattanooga	Hamilton	VIS
Julie	Koch	Hixson	Hamilton	Warehouse
Chase	Sanders	Middleton	Hardeman	OT/PT
Richard	Farmer	Knoxville	Knox	Building Maintenance
Richard	Hackney	Knoxville	Knox	JOBS
Selena	Tackett	Knoxville	Knox	JOBS
Elvin	Holland, Jr	Lenoir	Loudon	Building Maintenance
Mary	Leverett	Lafayette	Macon	JOBS
Elijah	Gregory	Jackson	Madison	Custodial
Kenneth	Jones	Jackson	Madison	Food Service
Tim	Rentfro	Jackson	Madison	Food Service
Justin	Delk	Jackson	Madison	Building Maintenance
Jessica	Lowry	South Pittsburg	Marion	Food Service
Tabitha	Rich	Santa Fe	Mauzy	Food Service
Amy	McLemore	Sweetwater	Monroe	JOBS
Matt	Lynn	Madisonville	Monroe	JOBS
Briana	Mosley	Southside	Montgomery	Custodial
Michele	Moseley	Cunningham	Montgomery	Food Service
Khristopher	Bembrey	Clarksville	Montgomery	JOBS
Kurtis	Bembrey	Clarksville	Montgomery	Food Service

Brandon	Zaccour	Cookeville	Putnam	JOBS
William "Ed"	Roberts	Cookeville	Putnam	VIS
Ashlee	Martin	Springfield	Robertson	JOBS
Danny	Craun	Smyrna	Rutherford	Business Education
Tiffany	Rose	Smyrna	Rutherford	Food Service
Jonathan "Jon"	Burrows	Smyrna	Rutherford	Traumatic Brain Injury
Michael	Collier	Murfreesboro	Rutherford	TLS
James "Jim"	Wandling	Smyrna	Rutherford	VIS
Christopher	Collier	Memphis	Shelby	Food Service
Amber	Beckham	Memphis	Shelby	JOBS
Courtney	Vielhaber	Lakeland	Shelby	JOBS
Elan	Ashter	Memphis	Shelby	Traumatic Brain Injury
Roderick	Howard	Memphis	Shelby	Building Maintenance
Tiffany	Rider	Brush Creek	Smith	JOBS
Paul	Walton	Kingsport	Sullivan	Food Service
Courtney	Tidwell	Bethpage	Sumner	Business Education
Kimberly	Stubblefield	Covington	Tipton	Auto Maintenance/Detail
Victoria	Walker	Millington	Shelby	Custodial
Candice	DeLancey	Brighton	Tipton	Custodial
Kyle	Moore	Drummonds	Tipton	JOBS
Jeffrey	Dembinski	Munford	Tipton	OT/PT
Jacob	Cantrell	McMinnville	Warren	Business Education
John	Cunningham	McMinnville	Warren	TLS
Reva	Spears	Telford	Washington	Groundskeeping
Michelle	Maiden	Gray	Washington	JOBS
Steven	Clark	Johnson City	Washington	Warehouse
Amber	Callins	Greenfield	Weakley	Business Education
James	Green	Primm Springs	Williamson	JOBS
Kevin	Warner	Franklin	Williamson	OT/PT
LaTasha	White	Brentwood	Williamson	TLS
Malcolm	Hill	Lebanon	Wilson	Building Maintenance
Whitney	Stewart	Lebanon	Wilson	Food Service
Ashley S.	Copley	Lebanon	Wilson	JOBS
Ashley	Adams	Mt. Juliet	Wilson	JOBS

JOBS— Job Objectives & Behavioral Services

TLS—Transitional Life Skills

OT/PT—Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy

VIS—Vision Impairment Services